

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL  
LIMA, OHIO

February 24, 2020

The Council of the City of Lima met in regular session at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Mayor David Berger; Tony Geiger, Law Director; Anthony DiPietro, Deputy Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Steven Cleaves, Finance Director; Kari Keener, Dir. of Human Resources; Susan Crotty; Dir. Of DCD; Howard Elstro, Dir. of Public Works; Deputy Fire Chief Heffner; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

The invocation was given by Councilor Thompson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL showed the following members present: Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon.

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to amend the Agenda by adding Sally Windle from Artspace Lima and Darrell Ball, F.O.P. 21 President to Privilege of the Floor and by substituting Ordinance 034-20 and Ordinance 041-20. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Sally Windle, Executive Director of Artspace Lima, and David Adams, spoke to Council about a partner initiative to establish a Poet Loreate for the City of Lima. She explained they decided to pursue the opportunity because of the amount of literary people and poets in this community. She said Sharetta Smith did the research and contacted other cities that have a Poet Loreate and was able to help the groups draft an application for the establishment of the program. She explained the community has many great writers and should be highlighted. She explained they are trying to get the word out in the community to come back at a later time to ask Council to establish the program. David Adams recited poetry to Council.

Darrell Ball, F.O.P. 21 Lodge President, addressed Council in reference to the proposed legislation concerning large parties in the City of Lima. He expressed the concerns that the requirement to obtain a permit would not only require additional expense to the renters and could negatively impact the rentals. He said the F.O.P. relies a lot on the rental income to provide charitable work such as Cops and Kids, give to Special Olympics, the Equestrian Program, D.A.R.E. and other programs. He expressed his concern about potential liability if a felonious crime occurs in the rental. He has received conflicting information regarding the intent of Council and asked that Council consider ways to address his concerns that do not create obstacles to responsible residents and organizations that hold legitimate gatherings in the community. President Nixon advised that the topic is currently in a Committee who has requested draft legislation and it will be reviewed in another Committee meeting.

February 24, 2020

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy.

Gordon moved that items "a" of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved, seconded by Dixon, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Dir. of Community Development regarding legislation to place tax assessments. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Dixon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

2. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to enter into contract with Middletown Ford. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Ehora, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

3. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to disburse funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to Von der haus German Shepherds, Inc. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

4. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2020 Budget. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Dixon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

5. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with ODOT for Hospital Improvements Project. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

6. From the Deputy Dir. of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry regarding legislation to receive a gift from Visit Greater Lima. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

7. From the Auditor regarding the January 2020 Financial Reports. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Dixon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

8. From the St. Mary Development Corporation regarding Shawnee Lofts. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Christine Pleva, Executive Director of Visit Greater Lima (VGL), presented Council with the 2019 Annual Report. She said for forty-two years, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has been promoting Lima/Allen County to generate tourism for the whole purpose to have a positive impact on the economic development of the community. Their objective is to promote Lima/Allen County to potential leisure group events and business visitors. She explained Visit Greater Lima is located at 144 S. Main Street and is alongside other independent organizations that also play a role in aspects of economic development in our community such as Greater Lima Region, Inc., Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce and other organizations. She reviewed the statistics for 2019 including trade show attendance, events, marketing strategies, social media and webpage hits. She gave Council a breakdown of everything that Visit Greater Lima offers. She advised that tourism was up 3% from 2018. She expressed her appreciation for Council's support. (A complete copy of the report is on file in the Council office.)

Deb Vobbe presented Council with the Civil Service Board 2019 Annual Report. She explained Mr. Carpenter resigned in 2019 and was replaced by Mr. Mullenhour. She explained in 2019, the Board held 14 meetings, had contact with over 600 individuals and administered 12 open and competitive exams and 10 non-competitive exams. She reviewed the finances for 2019. She explained 2019 was a busy year and 2020 is on track to be an even busier year. President Nixon expressed his appreciation to the Board. Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Neeper, that the Civil Service 2019 Annual Report be received and filed. Motion carried (A complete copy of the report is on file in the Council office.)

Susan Crotty presented the 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). She said the CAPER report is on CDBG and HOME fund activities that they provide to HUD each year. She explained the CDBG funds can be used for housing, community and economic development activities while HOME funds can only be used for housing activities to assist households with income less than 80% of the area median which is up to \$52,300 for a family of four. In 2019 they received a little over \$1 Million in CDBG/HOME funds. She explained the annual action plan is for October 1 2018 through September 30 2019. The City's expenditures were a little over \$1.4 Million total. The City spent \$525,751 on Housing Development and a bulk of that was to complete the 43 Town Square Project. The City did not have any CHDO projects during the plan year. She explained they did well on the HOME Updated/CDBG Emergency Repairs but one of the problems were they did not have access to their funds until December, 2019. They had 23 applications but some do not qualify because they do not have insurance or the repairs exceed their program limits. First Home Lima was short of the goal but there were nine new home buyers assisted. She reviewed the expenditures in different programs through Community Development. She explained ten residential structures were demolished. She explained Neighborhood Support funds part of Autumn Swanson's salary. She encouraged Council members to attend the Regional Neighborhood Conference. Additional projects funded by the CDBG funds include the Lincoln Park improvements and curb reconstruction. She advised they are starting the process now for the next 5 year consolidated plan and the public portion will take place in March. Councilor Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon,

that the 2019 CAPER be received and filed. Motion carried. (A complete copy of the presentation is on file in the Council Office.)

Major Baker, LPD, expressed the importance of highlighting one of their crucial community partners who works so much behind the limelight. He explained their partners at the Crossroads Crisis Center help LPD out tremendously. He explained that officers are sent to domestic disputes over twice a day and unfortunately their toolbox for that type of call is limited. He said thankfully they can turn to Crossroads Crisis Center for help. He introduced Christel Keller, Executive Director of Crossroads Crisis Center, explained their collaboration with the Lima Police Department. She explained the mission of Crossroads Crisis Center is to enhance safety for survivors of domestic violence and their children by educating, advocating and empowering individuals through their leadership and expertise. She said together, LPD and Crossroads assist survivors in the community. She said in 2019 LPD responded to 635 domestic violence calls which means that each of these calls, the victims were given information about Crossroads Crisis Center. She explained after each domestic violence call, the officer calls Crossroads and reports to an advocate and the advocate can then gather that information and decide if it's safe to reach out and speak to them about services. She explained Crossroads provides services to women, men and the survivor's children. In 2019, Crossroads provided services to 752 women, 5 men and 377 children. She reviewed the different programs that are offered. (A copy of the handout is on file in the Council office.)

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

033-20 Levying special assessments for property maintenance code charges on premises in the City of Lima. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

034-20 Amending the 2020 Annual Budget. Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

035-20 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Clemans, Nelson & Associates. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

036-20 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion

carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

037-20 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Middletown Ford. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

038-20 Authorizing a contract with Von Der Haus Gill German Shepherds, Inc. and payment for same from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

039-20 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with ODOT (Jobs and Commerce). Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

040-20 Authorizing the Mayor to receive a gift from Visit Greater Lima. Glenn moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

041-20 Enacting Chapter 1828 of the Codified Ordinances of Lima, Ohio. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Thompson thanked Mr. Ball for expressing his concerns and assured him that she believed the Committee's goal was to target events that are being held at venues that aren't meant to be event venues. She thanked Christine Pleva and Visit Greater Lima for their efforts and she is happy that Christine was willing to speak with her and hear her concerns that more diversity should be represented. She sees the proof in the brochure. Thompson thanked Clarence Zanders for hosting a wonderful black history month event. She was honored to be asked to speak at the event and said Clarence is a young Lima resident, who put together an event with young local talent. She explained the event highlighted all that Lima has to offer, the importance of their vote, and what they had gone through in the black community. She announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be meeting on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge.

February 24, 2020

Councilor Ehora offered her prayers to Chief Martin and his family. She said the Lima City Schools held an Athletic Hall of Fame event over the weekend. She said she pulled down Elizabeth Street and it was packed with people having lunch at the downtown Kewpee. She said the thing she loves about Lima is that Kewpee is everything and that the Shutt family has always been good to Lima. She said it does her heart good to see people sitting in Kewpee who may be their first time home in a lot of years and it's the first place they want to go.

Councilor Dixon thanked Mr. Ball for speaking and said he looks forward to having additional conversations with him regarding the event permits. Dixon encouraged others who have interest to attend the Joint Safety Services and Neighborhood Concerns Committee meeting on March 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm. He explained the only way Council knows there is an issue is if people speak their concerns. He explained Clarence Zanders is a good friend of his and he has always been the person that wanted to host events. He encouraged others to attend and support Zanders' events. He announced there is a community meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. located at New Life Assembly Church, 1003 E. Kibby Ave. to talk about the South Jackson garden.

Councilor Glenn thanked Major Baker. He announced the ALS Walk will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and all money will go towards the William White Foundation. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the walk. He said he will continue with the Youth of the Month. He announced there was a Town Hall Meeting at Lima Towers on Sunday and a lot of people attended. He appreciates the Jackson Family for cooking all of the food. He said Councilor Thompson and Sharetta Smith did a great job speaking and it is good they showed their leadership. He expressed the importance of participating in the census. He said he appreciates the donations for the housing project.

Councilor Neeper expressed his appreciation to the Lima Police Dept., COP Officers and LACNIP staff for putting on the pancake breakfast. He said it was great to see the Councilors and officials in attendance.

Councilor Gordon thanked the Civil Service Board for all the work they put in and expressed his appreciation for them. He said he was excited to see the Visit Greater Lima brochure at the roadside rest stops during his travels. He expressed his appreciation to Christel Keller and Crossroads Crisis Center. He said what they do is big and he doesn't think people realize how important the Crossroads program is. He announced Saturday is leap year which is his birthday. He reminded everyone to be good to each other.

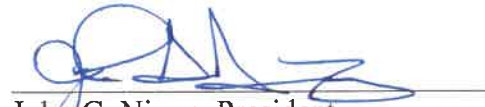
Councilor Wilkerson said the pancake breakfast was his first public event as a Councilor and was a good time. He said it was great meeting people. He has received a lot of phone calls about garbage pickup. He reminded everyone there are avenues and the payment center is the first call. He said another call he receives often is how early the trash collectors can pick up trash. Saul Allen, Utilities Deputy Director, explained the earliest they can pick up is 6:00 a.m. and a letter was sent out to all trash haulers with that information. Saul advised he will call Rumpke in the morning. He said the world is full of good people, if you can't find one, be one.

February 24, 2020

President Nixon expressed that he believes the Poet Laureate is a good idea.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.

  
Dana Addis, Clerk

  
John G. Nixon, President